Jodeen Carney
Shadow Minister for Child Protection
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UNPRODUCTIVE GOVERNMENT POLICIES


The Report notes that the rate of substantiated notifications for child abuse or neglect increased for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children between 1999-2000 and 2007-08. However, the gap widened, with the Indigenous rate increasing from 4 to 6 times the non-Indigenous rate.

Further the increase in the number of substantiated cases of child abuse for Indigenous kids has doubled from 16 to 35 per 1000 since the turn of the century.

"It is outrageous the total number of child abuse cases is growing, with the rate amongst indigenous children more than doubling since 2000 but the Child Abuse Taskforce in Alice Springs still has just 3 employees," says Jodeen Carney, Shadow Minister for Child Protection.

"Central Australia is a recognised trouble spot for child abuse but last year the Henderson Government did not provide a single extra child protection officer for the Child Abuse Taskforce based in Alice.

"Indeed despite the soaring rates of substantiated child abuse the Henderson Government managed to employ just 8 additional child protection workers across the Territory in the last 12 months.

"Labor’s failure to tackle child abuse explains why the Northern Territory has the lowest rate for Indigenous kids on care and protection orders in the country.

"In the Northern Territory just 14.6 Indigenous kids per 1000 are on care and protection orders compared to the national rate of 41 per 1000."
“Children who have been abused or neglected are highly reliant upon a well functioning child protection system.

“They also have the right to expect that Governments will deliver on promises made. This Government is failing the most vulnerable on both counts,” says Ms Carney.

Further comment: Jodeen Carney 8951 5588